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Small-Scale Agriculture Today

Office for Small-Scale Agriculture



Summer 1989

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Cooperative State Research Service • Agricultural Research For A Better Tomorrow

AT ISSUE...KEEPING PACE

Engraved on the interior walls of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., are four quotations, describing the chief principles of Jefferson's beliefs. On the southwest wall are phrases from the Declaration of Independence. These words fittingly occupy the first position in the sequence, for it was Jefferson's wish that he be remembered first as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

The second quotation embodies Jefferson's principle of freedom of the mind.

The third is devoted to his ideas of freedom of the body and to his beliefs in the necessity of educating the masses of the people.

Jefferson's vision in matters of government is evident in the fourth quotation. By these words, appearing in a letter to a friend, we know that Jefferson recognized the necessity for change in the laws and institutions of the democracy.

Jefferson said, "I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regime of their barbarous ancestors."

IMPORTANT

Topics, technologies and calendar of events (yours) are very important to the Office for Small-Scale Agriculture (OSSA). Keep them coming!

Please note our new Dailcom-AGS3037 H. Kerr or Fax (202)475-3179.

DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

In the spirit of the Fourth of July, the Office for Small-Scale Agriculture (OSSA) would like you to declare your independence, that is, from endless letter writing, phone calling, and red tape. "The Directory for Small-Scale Agriculture," now available, will enable users to access quickly nearly 500 key state and federal government employees who can address questions about small-scale, diversified agriculture.

Directions for using the directory. First, select a keyword from the suggested list and then proceed to the keyword/specialty index and find groups of individuals, appropriate title or area of specialty, and representative state (region). Make your selection; there may be one or many more people who can assist you. As a final step, proceed to the main entries to obtain further details.

In the main entries, three keywords along with name and title will highlight each individual's expertise. A project/activity statement has been included to recognize current work specific to small-scale agriculture.

The directory is intended to serve several purposes: (1) to network small-scale agricultural researchers and educators, (2) to enable administrators and project managers to access individuals and gain greater understanding of small-scale agriculture programs and projects, and (3) to expedite the flow of information to members of the public interested in small-scale agriculture.

To obtain your copy of "The Directory for Small-Scale Agriculture," Stock Number 001-000-04539-3, order from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, North Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC 20402. The price is \$5.50 (domestic) per copy. Make check payable to "Superintendent of Documents," or order by telephoning "order desk" 202-783-3238.

TOPICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Conservation and Management - Annual Environmental Sourcebook, a free catalog listing a selection of titles and/or books providing practical information on today's pressing environmental issues. Contact: Island Press, Box 7, Covelo, CA 95428; telephone 1-800-628-2828, Ext. 416.

"Entrepreneurship--101 Ideas for Stimulating Rural Entrepreneurships and New Business Development," a 23-page brochure, costs \$3. Contact: Debbie Washington, Council of State Policy and Planning Agencies (CSPA), 400 North Capitol Street, Suite 285, Washington, DC 20001; telephone 202-624-5827.

Pesticide Hotline - Have a question about pesticide - how to use it or dispose of it, the potential side effects? For impartial information about pesticides 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, contact: National Pesticide Telecommunications, 1-800-858-7378.

Cool Cows - Milk output drops when cows begin to experience heavy heat stress. There are some new developments in ways to cool cows more effectively. Contact: Barney Harris, Dairy Science Dept., University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; telephone 904-392-1958.

Sheep Raising - "A Handbook for Raising Small Numbers of Sheep" is an excellent guide for novices, costs \$5. Write to ANR Publications, University of California, 6701 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608-1239.

Sweet Corn - A new one-row picker requires only a 40-hp tractor equipped with double acting hydraulic outlet and 540 rpm PTO. Contact: Russ Quandt, Pixall Corp., 100 Bean St., Clear Lake, WI 54005; telephone 715-263-2112.

TIP: Continuous planting of onions on the same ground will increase onion maggot problems. Flies migrate up to one-half mile. Rotation is extremely important to reduce onion maggot damage.

Marketing U.S. Agriculture - The 1988 Yearbook of Agriculture (\$9.50 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents; U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325) is 327 pages that will help you to understand the complexities and challenges in marketing agricultural goods, domestically as well as internationally, and possibly spark some creative solutions. The yearbook offers case studies emphasizing four key elements of marketing in consumers research, product development, delivery, and promotions.

Sandwich Cornbread - Fine-ground corn flour blended with wheat flour may prove to be the perfect new sandwich bread that retains the flavor and color of cornbread. Potential markets are delis, restaurants, bake shops and specialty outlets. Contact: Kathleen Warner, USDA-ARS, Northern

Regional Research Center, 1815 N. University, Peoria, IL 61604; telephone 309-685-4011.

You Need This - A collection of the very best from handy devices, ideas, tips, etc., the "Handy Devices" booklet costs \$5. Contact: Progressive Farmer, Box 2581, Birmingham, AL 35202.

Flowers and Foliage - Write for information about the new national association that unites growers engaged in the production and marketing of specialty cut flowers and foliage. Contact: Judy Laushman, P.O. Box 2796, Friday Harbor, WA, 98250; telephone 206-378-3760.

Natural Controls - Someday, spices (i.e., nutmeg, mace, etc.) may control insects that infest stored wheat and other cereal grains. Contact: Helen C. Su, USDA-ARS, Stored Product Insects Research and Development Laboratory, 3401 Edwin Street, P.O. Box 22909, Savannah, GA 31403; telephone 912-233-7981.

Computer Systems - Universities are major developers of agricultural software and computer systems. For example:

A quarterly newsletter (\$10 per year) listing farm software. Contact: John Schmidt, North Central Computer Institute, 610 N. Walnut St., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53705; telephone 608-263-4791.

Easy and effective farm management program called Turbo Farm for a cost of \$25. Contact: Pat Davis, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, CA; telephone 916-752-2745.

TIP: Spray Drift - remember the winds. Drift is 70 percent greater in 12 mph winds than in 3.6-mph winds. So when it's very windy, don't spray. University of Delaware.

Herb Market News - The USDA has initiated a national weekly fresh herb market news report listing wholesale herb prices obtained from 19 wholesale markets. Report costs \$72 per year, check payable to USDA. Contact: Jackie Cunningham, USDA-AMS, Room 942, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60605; telephone 312-353-0111.

TIP: If your lawn has irregular brown patches that can be pulled up like carpeting there are probably grubs present. These insect larvae feed on grass roots.

Free Advice and Information - If you need to ship perishable products in hot weather, the Tropical Products Transport Handbook gives advice on maintaining quality of cut flowers, plants, fruit and vegetables in warmer climates and has information on USDA requirements for importing pest-free foreign product. Contact: Export Services Branch, Office of Transportation, USDA, 1405 Auditors Bldg., Washington, DC 20250.

Log Buildings - Custom built log houses, each one different and designed to meet the need and budget of the family for whom it is built, and to fit the layout of the land where it will go. For a full brochure, send \$5 to Peter Gott, Tater Gap Road, Marshall, NC 28753; telephone 704-656-2521.

TIP: Keeping Onions. If you grow some onions in the garden this year, dry them thoroughly in the sun, if possible. They need to be dried completely to keep well. And, don't let them become wet during or after the drying process.

Best Management for Potatoes - This research integrates soil fertility, disease, insect control, and irrigation, and is designed to minimize inputs while maintaining high potato productivity. Low-input practices are compared with conventional practices to determine if the former actually reduce chemicals in the groundwater. Contact: Walt Stevens, 283A Russell Laboratories, Dept. of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706; telephone 608-262-6291.

Free Catalog - Need parts and supplies delivered to your farm? Contact: Bill Byrkit, PDQ Parts Catalog, 2165 NW 108th St., Bldg. F, Des Moines, IA 50322; telephone 1-800-274-7334.

Dessert Vines - Minimelons, seedless or hybrid triploid watermelons, cantaloupes, and others are found in the January 1989, "A Small-Scale Agriculture Alternative, Dessert Vines." For a copy, contact: Bud Kerr, USDA-CSRS-OSSA, Suite 342-D, Washington, D.C. 20251-2200.

AG Facts - "One farmer feeds and clothes 80 people. In the 1700's, one farmer supplied goods for only 3 people." (From a newspaper article April 22, 1989).

Greenhouse Engineering - Costs \$20, this 200-page authoritative text contains eight detailed chapters targeted for those starting a greenhouse operation or those interested in improving operations and efficiency in current greenhouses. Contact: Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service (NRASE) Cooperative Extension 152 Riley - Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853; telephone 607-255-7654.

12-Volt Sprayer - When matched with an optional axle kit and pull bar, it becomes a self-contained spray rig for small jobs around the farm or garden. Contact: Carol Kants, Ag Enterprises, Route 1, Box 69, Grainfield, KS 67737; telephone 913-673-4728.

TIP - A assortment of peppers--yellow, orange, purple, black, and white in addition to green and red--are gaining in popularity in produce departments and with consumers. Adding flavor, textures and colors to salads, they also provide an interesting substitute for tomatoes, which can lack color, texture and flavor during certain times of the year.

COUNTRY LIVING

"Change is the only constant in farming and rural life" are words from the 1978 Yearbook of Agriculture, **LIVING ON A FEW ACRES**. Jack Hayes, the editor, says, "There have been tremendous changes in rural life since the early days of this Nation. We have seen a great exodus from the land and now we are beginning to see a substantial return."

The new trend reverses the massive rural-urban-migration from World War II through the 1960's. Non-metropolitan counties lost 3 million people through outmigration in the 1960's. But between 1970 and 1976, rural areas and small towns grew by 4.3 million."

According to the book, many suburbanites and city people have moved to the country. Those who haven't done so and are thinking about it should study carefully all they can about what is involved before making the move. Read the book. Visit country areas. Talk to people already there. Check all the angles.

There are others who will find this book useful. Among them are those who have been full-fledged farmers in the past but are choosing to farm smaller portions of the land, and to hold jobs in town.

CHALLENGE-1607/2007

"Since the settlement of the Virginia Colony in 1607, agriculture has been important in the development of our Nation. In those early years, hand labor was the means of production because labor-saving machinery and equipment had not yet been developed. Scientists soon realized that to clothe, feed, and care for future populations, changes in production were required. Thus, proactive research programs were developed to prepare for the future. Today's challenge is not much different. We must continue to initiate proactive, far-reaching research programs."

Agricultural research faces a terrific challenge as the 21st century approaches--helping feed a world population that will grow by 80 to 90 million people annually. Planning for this job is made more difficult by the rapid development of new techniques to improve productivity and cost efficiency, and the necessity to compete in the world marketplace." (Spring 1989 Vol. 36 No. 1, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University, Lowell T. Frobish, Director)

[Mention of commercial enterprises or brand names does not constitute endorsement or imply preference by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 14-16, 1989 - National Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) 15th Annual Summer Conference, Williams College, Williamstown, MA. Contact: Julie Rawson RFD #2, Barre, MA 01005; telephone 508-355-2853.

July 22-25, 1989 - HERBS 89, Int'l Herb Growers and Marketing Assoc. 4th Annual Conference, Red Lion Inn, San Jose, CA. Contact: Maureen Buehrle, Exec. Dir., P.O. Box 281, Silver Springs, PA 17575; telephone 717-684-9756.

July 25-26, 1989 - "Rodale Research Center Field Days." Cost is \$6 for students, \$8 for farmers and researchers; you must register before July 21, 1989. Send check (payable to "Rodale Research Center") to: RRC Field Days, RD 1-Box 323, Kutztown, PA 19530; telephone 215-683-6383. Be sure to specify which field day you plan to attend.

July 25-27, 1989 - Small or Limited Resource Farmer's Regional Conference (GA, SC, FL and AL), Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, GA. Contact: Dana Froe, OAE-USDA, Room 1226 S. Bldg., Washington, DC 20250; telephone 1-800-543-1289.

July 25-28, 1989 - North American Dairy Sheep Symposium, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.

Contact: Gerald Wagner, 405 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108; telephone 612-625-1978.

July 30-August 3, 1989 - 74th Annual Meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Somerset Hilton Hotel, Somerset NJ. Contact: Bruce Van Duyne, Chair, Registration Committee, 317 Pennsylvania Ave., Paterson, NJ 07503; telephone 201-881-4537.

August 2-3, 1989 - Southern Plains Regional Herb Conference, Tulsa Junior College, Tulsa, OK (limited to 330 people). Contact: Doris Bankea, Rt. 1 Box 847, Ramma, OK 74061; telephone 918-536-4372.

September 24-27, 1989 - Conference, "Expanding The Future of the Small Farm: What Works!", University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. Contact: Mary Simon Leuci, University of Missouri, 628 Clark Hall, Columbia, MO 65211; telephone 314- 882-2937.

November 8-11, 1989 - Future Farmers of America (FFA) Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO. Contact: Tony Hoyt, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160; telephone 703-360-3600.

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